

added that he hoped few lepidopterists knew of its location — I certainly do not — though he had originally reported it in the *Entomologist*. This must be most exceptional, and I should be glad to hear from any reader who knows of an established colony below the generally accepted lower altitudinal limit. It may turn out that we have too glibly gone on repeating the usual account of the matter. I say "established colony" because Mr. Moule goes on to say that he has seen specimens as low as 200ft., which he admits were almost certainly blown down from higher up the Fells. I have personally never encountered any specimens, blown or otherwise, below the normally accepted height, and I was very intrigued by this report.

I have now just had a letter from Mr. Chris Howarth of Whitehaven to say that he was climbing from Wastwater onto the Scafell range in mid-July this year (during the only really fine spell we have had in Cumbria apart from a few days at the end of May during the whole of this season) and was astonished to see specimens of *E. epiphron* flying at 200ft. by the shores of Wastwater. As he climbed up to the ridge he realised why, for specimens were spilling over from the plateau above where they were in such profusion that it was almost impossible not to tread on them. How I wish I had been there! I have never come across an outbreak of this species, and indeed had never heard anybody tell of one. I have always found its numbers quite constant. Wanderers are not infrequent in my experience but the specimens I have come across in this way have always managed to remain at a respectable altitude! It would be interesting to know whether other lepidopterists have had the same experience as I have, or whether they have come across specimens low down the Fells, or any similar outbreak. — THE REVEREND J. H. VINE-HALL, 3 The Green, Malmerby, Penrith, Cumbria.

EVIDENCE OF A LATE MIGRATION OF LEPIDOPTERA TO EASTBOURNE ON 2ND NOVEMBER 1978. — Noticing the warmth and closeness of the evening of the 2nd, I drove home to switch on my m.v. lamp at about 2000 hours. The prevailing wind was south-westerly and steady drizzle dampened my hopes. Next morning, inspection of the trap contents revealed: *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. (2), *Mythimna unipuncta* Haw. (2), *Peridroma porphyrea* D. & S. (1), and *Plusia gamma* L. (4), of which two had wingspans of 36mm. compared to 40-46mm. of normal specimens as cited by Meyrick (1927).

Among suspected immigrants at my garden light earlier in September and October, I had only singletons of *Leucania albipuncta* D. & S., *Peridroma porphyrea* and *Agrotis ipsilon*, with *Autographa gamma* L. and *Agrotis segetum* D. & S. in poor numbers compared with the previous three years. — MARK HADLEY, 7 Beverington Close, Eastbourne, Sussex.

MID OCTOBER MIGRANTS INTO CENTRAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE. — After a very lean year at the m.v. trap in my garden, I wish to record a *Heliothis armigera* (Hbn.) on the night of 12/13 October and a *Mythimna unipuncta* (Haw.) on the night of 13/14 October. Both were females and neither had

occurred before during the 20 years I have run a trap here. I think the *unipuncta* is the first Gloucestershire record. Other rare (or in the case of *Plusia orichalcea* F.) very rare migrants occurred during the same few nights at other traps in the county. — R. P. DEMUTH, Watercombe House, Oakridge, Gloucestershire.

RHODOMETRA SACRARIA (L.) IN SHEFFIELD. — On the 11th October during the mild period I took a single specimen of The Vestal in my m.v. trap at Broomhill in Sheffield. It was in fresh condition, male and had brown markings. — S. P. GARLAND, 8 Roslin Road, Sheffield S10 1FA, Yorks.

HELICOVERPA ARMIGERA (HBN.) AND OTHER MIGRANTS IN OXFORDSHIRE IN 1978. — 1978, until recently, has been an uninteresting year for recording migrants. However, starting in the second week of October large numbers of individuals appeared in my trap at Steeple Barton, Oxfordshire. On the night of the 14th, I had over 100 specimens of *Phlogophora meticulosa* (L.), with 50 on the 13th and since that date until today (November 1st) averaging a dozen per night. On the 13th October I found a ♂ *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hbn.) which was somewhat "dusky". Again on 15th I found a similar specimen in my trap along with *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufn.) and *Peridroma saucia* (Hbn.). *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) occurred here in small numbers at the beginning of October but we have seen none since. The normal local indigenes have occurred in very small numbers this year, and in particular elm feeding species are down in numbers although a few *Agrochola circellaris* (Hufn.) have occurred. — BERNARD KETTLEWELL, Genetics Unit, Dept. of Zoology, University of Oxford.

HELICOVERPA ARMIGERA (HBN.): SCARCE BORDERED STRAW. — At about 22.30 on 14th October 1978, I took a specimen of this moth off a street light at the back of my house. It was identified for me by Paul Sokoloff and Ian Watkinson. The night of its capture was very foggy. — D. DEY, 9 Monmouth Close, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent.

THE FEATHERED RANUNCULUS: EUMICHTIS LICHENEA HBN. AND BLAIR'S SHOULDER-KNOT: LITHOPHANE LEAUTIERI BOIS. IN NORTH-EAST KENT. — *Eumichtis lichenea* was for the period mid-September to early October one of the most common moths to light and on ivy bloom here. The species is of course of coastal distribution, but it is more normally associated with these localities in the South and West, and it was therefore of interest to see it in such numbers two or three miles inland from the North Kent coast. Other records of note were of *Lithophane leautieri* Bois., taken in the garden trap on the night of 2nd/3rd October (male), and again on opening the trap on the morning of 12th October (female). There are several large *Cupressus* trees in the village and it is likely, knowing the rapid eastward movement of this species through southern England over the last few years, that it is breeding this far east in Kent. — Dr. I. A. WATKINSON, 148 The Street, Boughton-under-Blean, Faversham, Kent.